

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A flexible package for holding and selectively dispensing a liquid therefrom, said package being arranged to be filled with the liquid and sealed on a machine, said package comprising a bag and a tap fitment, said bag being formed of a flexible material having edge portions confronting each other to form a fitment-receiving space, said tap fitment comprising a base section and a tap section, said base section being generally boat-shaped having a first longitudinal axis, an opposed pair of smooth and continuous sidewalls extending along opposite sides of said first longitudinal axis, a top wall, a flange including a peripheral recess extending outward from said top wall and a first passageway extending through said base section and said flange along a second axis perpendicular to said first longitudinal axis, said base section being arranged to be located within said fitment-receiving space and fixedly secured to the contiguous edge portions of the bag thereat, said tap section comprising a second passageway extending therethrough coaxial with said first passageway and a controllable dispensing portion comprising a generally tubular member in fluid communication with said second passageway and extending along a third axis perpendicular to said second axis, said controllable dispensing portion having an outlet located at one end of said third axis, a twist cap located at the opposite end of said third axis and a valve connected to said twist cap, said twist cap being arranged to be rotated about said third axis.

Claim 2 (original): The package of Claim 1 additionally comprising an outer carton, said package being arranged to be located within said carton, said carton having a wall including an opening, with portions of said wall contiguous with said opening being located within said flange recess.

Claim 3 (original): The package of Claim 1 wherein said generally boat-shaped base section comprises a central portion, a first end portion and a second end portion, said first end portion projecting outward from said central portion and tapering to a first tip, said second end portion projecting outward from said central portion diametrically opposite said first end portion and tapering to a second tip, said first longitudinal axis extending from said first tip to said second tip.

Claim 4 (original): The package of Claim 3 wherein said central portion of said base section is of a generally cylindrical shape and wherein said first end portion tapers convexly from said central portion to said first tip and said second end portion tapers convexly from said central portion to said second tip.

Claim 5 (original): The package of Claim 4 additionally comprising an outer carton, said package being arranged to be located within said carton, said carton having a wall including an opening, with portions of said wall contiguous with said opening being located within said flange recess.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A precursor for flexible packages for holding and selectively dispensing a liquid therefrom, each of said packages being formed of a flexible material and being arranged to be filled with the liquid and sealed on a machine and comprising a pair of open bags interconnected by an intermediate section, each of said bags comprising a

respective, separate tap fitment, a first panel and a second panel juxtaposed opposite each other and fixedly secured to each other along first portions of their periphery, but unsecured along second portions of their periphery[[,]] to form an open top, said tap fitment having a generally boat-shaped base section and a tap section, said base section of each respective tap fitment being interposed and sealed between said first portions of the periphery of said panels opposite said open top of its respective bag, each of said bags being arranged to be filled with the liquid through said open top and then sealed along said open top by the machine to enclose the liquid therein and thereafter separated from each other at said intermediate section to produce two separate filled bags, each with its own respective fitment.

Claim 7 (original): The precursor of Claim 6, wherein said generally boat-shaped base section has a first longitudinal axis, an opposed pair of smooth and continuous sidewalls extending along opposite sides of said first longitudinal axis, a top wall, a flange including a peripheral recess extending outward from said top wall and a first passageway extending through said base section and said flange along a second axis perpendicular to said first longitudinal axis, said base section being arranged to be located between juxtaposed portions of the periphery of said panels, said tap section comprising a second passageway extending therethrough coaxial with said first passageway and a controllable dispensing portion comprising a generally tubular member in fluid communication with said second passageway and extending along a third axis perpendicular to said second axis, said controllable dispensing portion having an outlet located at one end of said third axis, a twist cap located at the opposite end of said third axis and a valve connected to said twist cap, said twist cap being arranged to be rotated about said third axis.

Claim 8 (original): The precursor of Claim 7 wherein said generally boat-shaped base section comprises a central portion, a first end portion and a second end portion, said first end portion projecting outward from said central portion and tapering to a first tip, said second end portion projecting outward from said central portion diametrically opposite said first end portion and tapering to a second tip, said first longitudinal axis extending from said first tip to said second tip.

Claim 9 (original): The precursor of Claim 8 wherein said central portion of said base section is of a generally cylindrical shape and wherein said first end portion tapers convexly from said central portion to said first tip and said second end portion tapers convexly from said central portion to said second tip.

Claims 10 – 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new): A precursor for flexible packages for holding and selectively dispensing a liquid therefrom, each of said packages being formed of a flexible material and being arranged to be filled with the liquid and sealed on a machine and comprising a pair of open bags interconnected by an intermediate section, each of said bags comprising a respective tap fitment, a first panel and a second panel juxtaposed opposite each other and fixedly secured to each other along first portions of their periphery, but unsecured along second portions of their periphery, to form an open top, said tap fitment having a generally boat-shaped base section and a tap section, said base section being interposed and sealed between said first portions of the periphery of said panels, each of said bags being arranged to be filled with the liquid through said open top and then sealed along said open top by the machine to enclose the liquid therein, said generally boat-shaped base section having a first longitudinal axis, an opposed pair of smooth and continuous

sidewalls extending along opposite sides of said first longitudinal axis, a top wall, a flange including a peripheral recess extending outward from said top wall and a first passageway extending through said base section and said flange along a second axis perpendicular to said first longitudinal axis, said base section being arranged to be located between juxtaposed portions of the periphery of said panels, said tap section comprising a second passageway extending therethrough coaxial with said first passageway and a controllable dispensing portion comprising a generally tubular member in fluid communication with said second passageway and extending along a third axis perpendicular to said second axis, said controllable dispensing portion having an outlet located at one end of said third axis, a twist cap located at the opposite end of said third axis and a valve connected to said twist cap, said twist cap being arranged to be rotated about said third axis.

Claim 22 (new): The precursor of Claim 21 wherein said generally boat-shaped base section comprises a central portion, a first end portion and a second end portion, said first end portion projecting outward from said central portion and tapering to a first tip, said second end portion projecting outward from said central portion diametrically opposite said first end portion and tapering to a second tip, said first longitudinal axis extending from said first tip to said second tip.

Claim 23 (new): The precursor of Claim 22 wherein said central portion of said base section is of a generally cylindrical shape and wherein said first end portion tapers convexly from said central portion to said first tip and said second end portion tapers convexly from said central portion to said second tip.